Phoenix Serenade
Kuro Hakushaku wa Hoshi o Mederu Chapter 3
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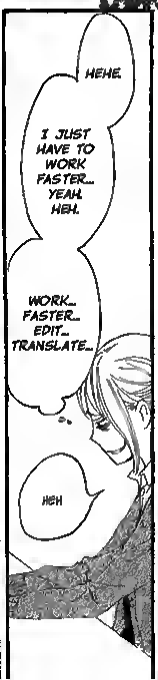

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集中連載
大注目♡
最終回

黒伯爵は星を愛でる

At the opera, the two of them face trouble...?

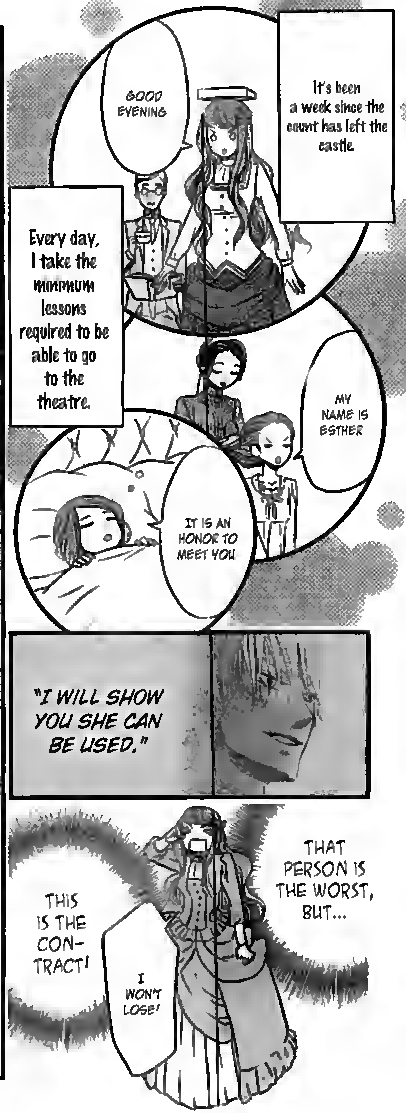
オペラの夜
2人に波乱…!?

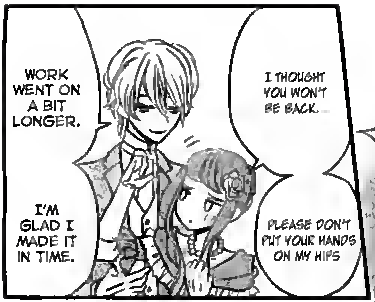
音久無

花とゆめコミックス

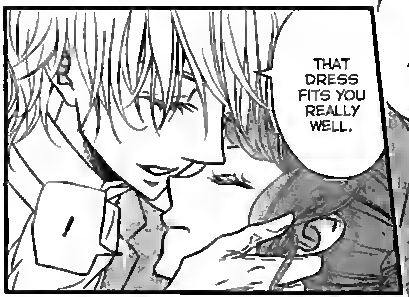
slowly
slowly
DOESN'T IT LOOK STRANGE, ANNA?
IT SUITS YOU REALLY WELL!
BUT THESE SHOES...
THE HEELS ARE HIGHER THAN USUAL...
REMEMBER THE TIME YOU WALKED WITH BOOKS ON YOUR HEAD?
DON'T WALK ON YOUR KNEES.
USE YOUR HIPS.
EEK!

I WILL SHOW YOU I CAN ACT LIKE A PERFECT LADY!
And now, the day to go to theatre has arrived.

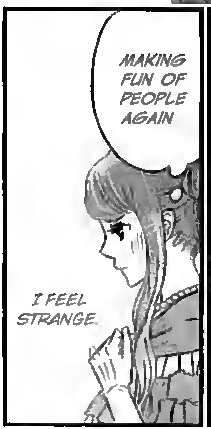

GOOD EVENING
It's been a week since the count has left the castle.
Every day, I take the minimum lessons required to be able to go to the theatre.
MY NAME IS ESTHER
IT IS AN HONOR TO MEET YOU
"I WILL SHOW YOU SHE CAN BE USED."
THAT PERSON IS THE WORST, BUT...
THIS IS THE CON-TRACT!
I WON'T LOSE!


WORK WENT ON A BIT LONGER.
I'M GLAD I MADE IT IN TIME.
I THOUGHT YOU WON'T BE BACK.
PLEASE DON'T PUT YOUR HANDS ON MY HIPS

C-
COUNT?
I'M BACK, MY WIFE.


THAT DRESS FITS YOU REALLY WELL.

I CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN WITH THIS PERSON BUT..


MAKING FUN OF PEOPLE AGAIN
I FEEL STRANGE.

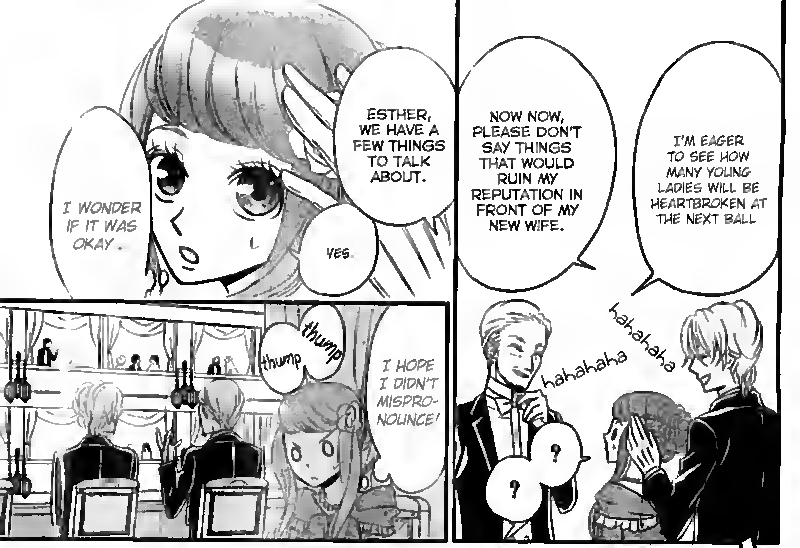
Push Push
giggle
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
THAT'S ENOUGH, YOU HURRY UP AND GET READY TOO!

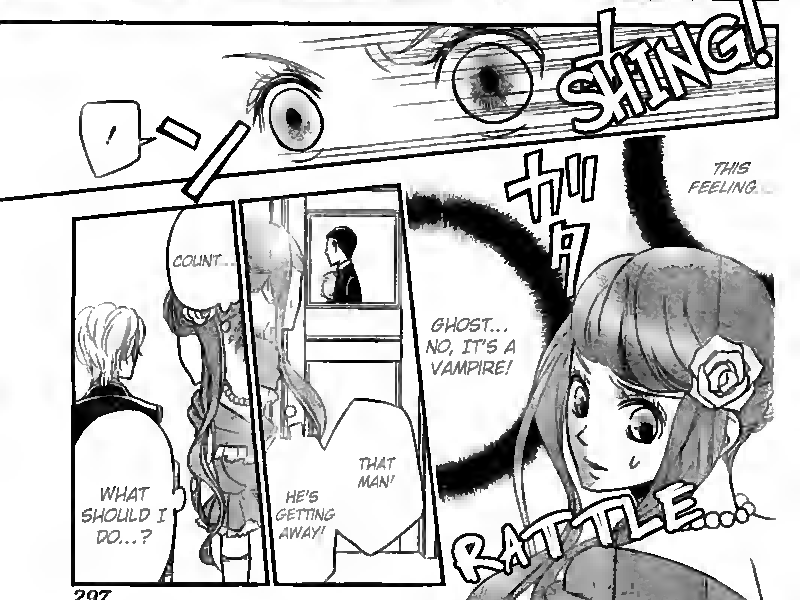
OH MY!
DI-DA-
WE ARE REALLY HERE...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
DON'T BE SO STIFF.
TONIGHT, YOU SHOULD JUST ENJOY YOURSELF.

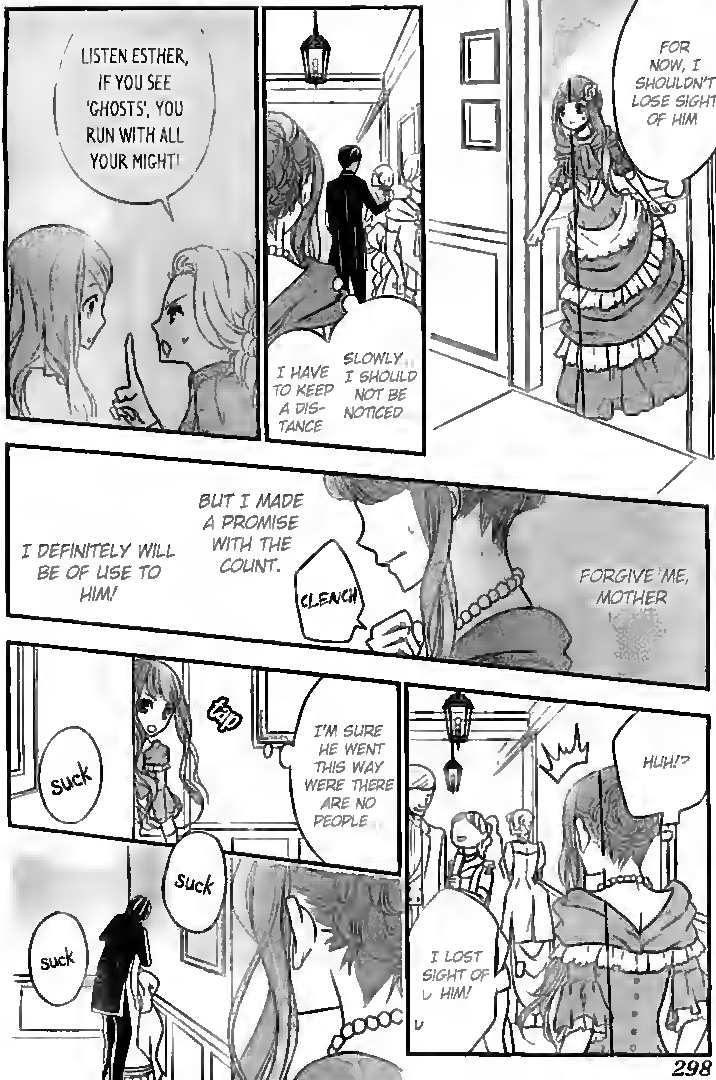
Rustle
Rustle
I SEE.
YOU... YOU SHOULDN'T SAY THAT! I WILL TRY MY BEST
THE COUNT STANDS OUT
THAT'S RIGHT, FROM THE OUTSIDE HE LOOKS VERY HANDSOME
BUT THE INSIDE IS PURE BLACK, SO IT'S PROBLEMATIC

Chuckle
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU ARE IN HIGH SPIRITS JUST LIKE A CHILD.
My! Amazing! This is such an amazing view, Count!
LEON!
MEANIE! BUT, HE'S RIGHT I SHOULDN'T TALK RECKLESSLY
HELLO
LORD RENI.
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE. I AM SORRY FOR CALLING YOU HERE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
TODAY, YOU HAVE BROUGHT A RATHER CUTE YOUNG LADY, HAVEN'T YOU?
SHE HAS JUST BECOME MY WIFE.
WIFE!?
ESTHER, THIS IS DUKE RENI.
AH! IT'S TIME!
Tap

AHEM
IT'S OKAY I STUDIED A LOT FOR THIS.
GOOD EVENING, DUKE RENI.
MY NAME IS ESTHER.
IT IS AN HONOR TO MEET YOU.
THE HONOR IS MINE
IT IS A PLEASURE ESTHER
thump
thump
STILL FOR THE MAN WHO IS SURROUNDED BY RUMORS TO GET MARRIED
IT'S STRANGE, RIGHT LEON?


I WONDER IF IT WAS OKAY.
ESTHER, WE HAVE A FEW THINGS TO TALK ABOUT.
YES.
NOW NOW, PLEASE DON'T SAY THINGS THAT WOULD RUIN MY REPUTATION IN FRONT OF MY NEW WIFE.
I'M EAGER TO SEE HOW MANY YOUNG LADIES WILL BE HEARTBROKEN AT THE NEXT BALL
hahahaha
hahahaha
? ?
thump
thump
I HOPE I DIDN'T MISPRONOUNCE!


SHING!
カリ
THIS FEELING...
GHOST... NO, IT'S A VAMPIRE!
RATTLE...
COUNT...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
HE'S GETTING AWAY!
THAT MAN!


FOR NOW, I SHOULDN'T LOSE SIGHT OF HIM
SLOWLY... I SHOULD NOT BE NOTICED
I HAVE TO KEEP A DISTANCE
LISTEN ESTHER, IF YOU SEE 'GHOSTS', YOU RUN WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT!
FORGIVE ME, MOTHER
CLENCH
BUT I MADE A PROMISE WITH THE COUNT.
I DEFINITELY WILL BE OF USE TO HIM!
HUH!?
I LOST SIGHT OF HIM!
I'M SURE HE WENT THIS WAY WERE THERE ARE NO PEOPLE
BAD
Suck
Suck
Suck

EEK!
OH?
falls
down
I'VE BEEN SEEN IN AN AWFUL CIRCUMSTANCE!
AH...
NO...
OH DEAR. ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
FALLS

I AGREE THAT SHE HAS A SWEET SCENT. BUT...
THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN LEAVE A MARK ON HER NECK IS ME.
C-COUNT...
OH?
YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING SMELL.
NO...
IT'S VERY STIMULATING
!?
SLASH
PARDON ME.

COUNT...
THAT...
PERSON...
AH, FORGIVE ME, MY BLOOD ROSE TO THE HEAD.
IF YOU HAD STABBED ME, I WOULD HAVE DIED
BUT DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS GOING A BIT TOO FAR?
OH, FORGIVE ME
THAT PERSON IS A GHOST.
SIZZLE
ARGH!
WHAT IS THIS?
AH. SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.

YOU'RE A VAMPIRE HUNTER?
THAT KNIFE
IT'S SILVER?
YES.
FURTHER-MORE, I HAVE SOAKED IT WELL IN HOLY WATER.
AH...
IT CAN'T BE...
INDEED.
FROZEN

I WILL REWARD YOU WITH A SILVER BULLET.
FOR A BRAVE VAMPIRE WHO PINNED DOWN
THE WIFE OF A VAMPIRE HUNTER.

A GUNSHOT!?
WHAT'S THAT?
EEK!

THE POLICE INSPECTOR CONSIDERS THE WINTERSON FAMILY A NUISANCE.
IT'S SO TROUBLE-SOME TO MEET HIM.
rustling
rustling
DID YOU EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO THOSE IN CHARGE OF THE THEATER?
OF COURSE
VERY WELL.
TAD
TAD
MASTER LEON, IT IS ABOUT TIME FOR THE POLICE TO ARRIVE
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
I'M THE WORST..
I AM REALLY SORRY...
I'M NOT USEFUL AT ALL I CAUSED A RUCKUS AND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PLAY TOO...
IT WAS THE WORST NIGHT...
MISS ESTHER, PLEASE DON'T MIND IT THAT MUCH

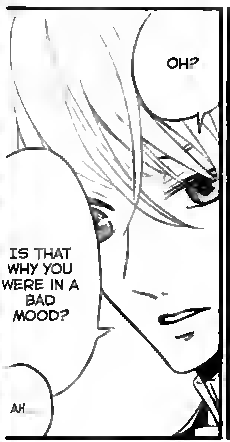
ベタベタな漫画を目指しました。3回とても楽しかったです！
ありがとうございました！

あとがき
〒101-0063
東京都千代田区神田淡路町2-2-2 白泉社
ぷくりの 編集部
喜久恵 蘭

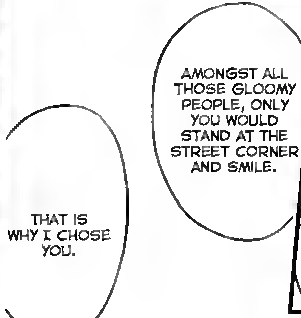
DON'T MAKE ME WORRY SO MUCH.
WHY...
WHY?
WHY ARE YOU SAYING SOMETHING SO KIND
ESTHER?
WHY...?

JUST A TOOL TO HUNT VAMPIRES FOR YOU?
AM I NOT
HUH?
FORGET ABOUT IT.
SHOCK
THAT WAS JUST A PLAY OF WORDS IN ORDER TO DECEIVE HIM.
SHE WAS LISTENING?
AH...
WHO SAID SUCH AN UNBELIEVABLE THING?
YOU DID.. YOU SAID THAT TO MISTER RICHARD!
TO UNCLE?

La La
大好評
発売中!!
ラスト
ゲーム
天乃忍

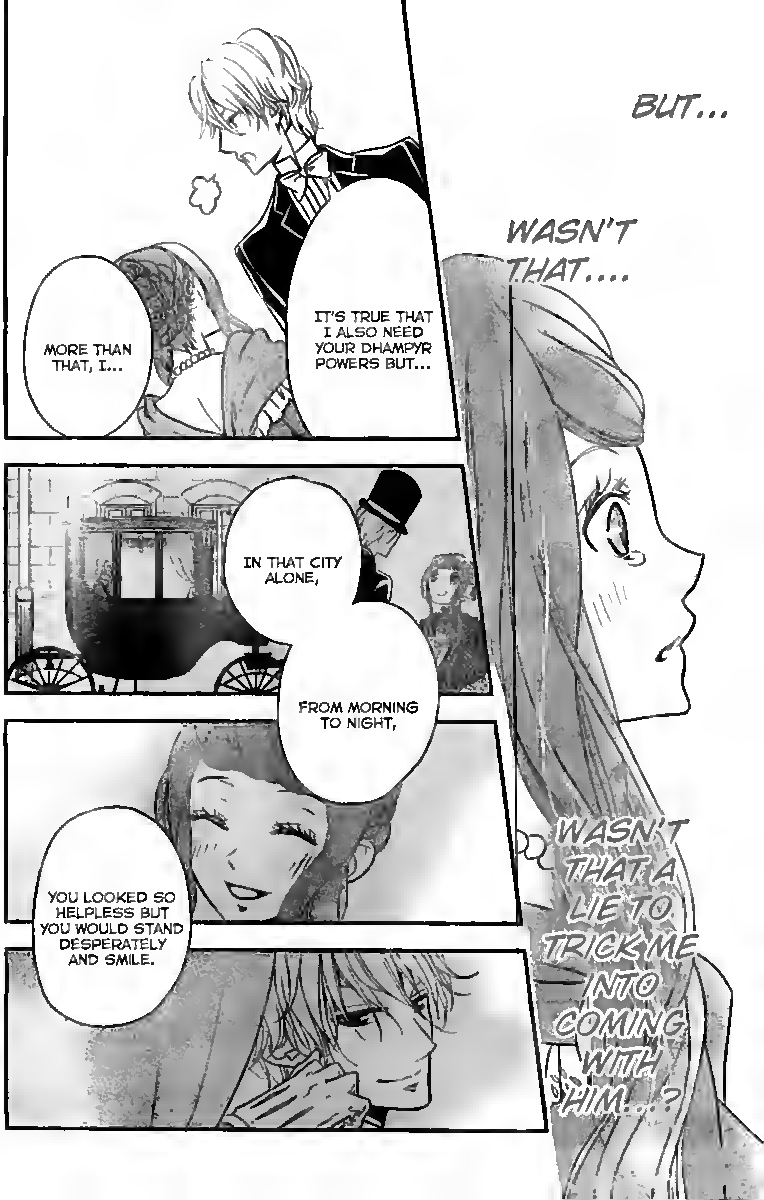

OH?
IS THAT WHY YOU WERE IN A BAD MOOD?
AH

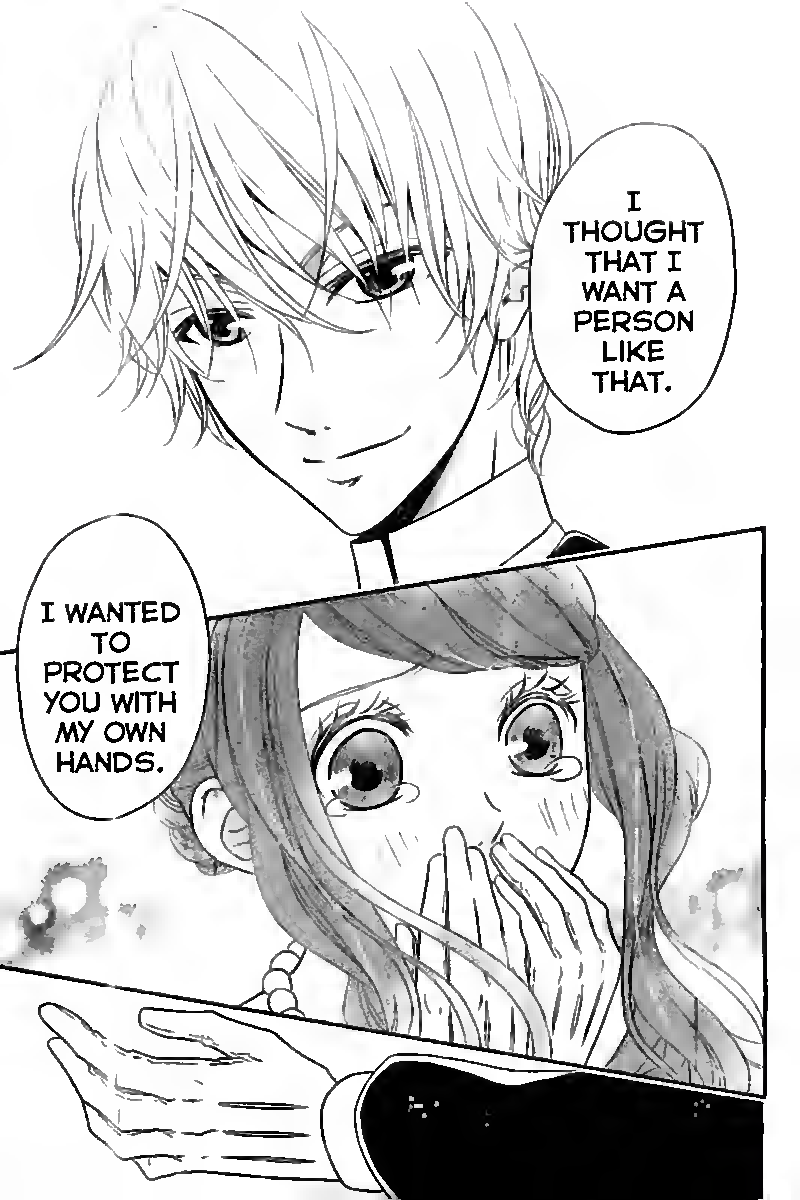
THIS IS WHAT I WAS UPSET FOR THIS WHOLE WEEK? BUT...!
?


AMONGST ALL THOSE GLOOMY PEOPLE, ONLY YOU WOULD STAND AT THE STREET CORNER AND SMILE.
THAT IS WHY I CHOSE YOU.

point
INSTEAD OF BELIEVING THAT, YOU SHOULD BELIEVE WHAT I TELL YOU IN PERSON.
ACK!

I TOLD YOU ALREADY ON THE DAY I BROUGHT YOU HERE, DIDN'T I?


BUT...
WASN'T THAT....
IT'S TRUE THAT I ALSO NEED YOUR DHAMPYR POWERS BUT...
MORE THAN THAT, I...
IN THAT CITY ALONE,
FROM MORNING TO NIGHT,
YOU LOOKED SO HELPLESS BUT YOU WOULD STAND DESPERATELY AND SMILE.
WASN'T THAT A LIE TO TRICK ME INTO COMING WITH HIM...?


I THOUGHT THAT I WANT A PERSON LIKE THAT.
I WANTED TO PROTECT YOU WITH MY OWN HANDS.

YOU KEPT ON TEASING ME SO I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.
I..
I JUST INTENDED TO LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY MIGHT.
HE WAS WATCHING ME.
I...
IS IT ALRIGHT FOR ME TO NOT BE LONELY ANYMORE?
AH....
HE FOUND ME.
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S YOU,
ESTHER.

I THOUGHT THE PRINCE WOULD NEVER SHOW UP, MOTHER.
COUNT, YOU CAN LET ME GO NOW.
I REFUSE.
IT'S A LIST OF THE NOBLES THAT HAVE RECENTLY ADOPTED SOMEONE.
THAT PERSON IS WELL CONNECTED SO I ASKED HIM.
OH?
DUKE RENI LEFT THIS FOR YOU.
AH, ESTHER.

YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR AL?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
IT'S YOUR REWARD. YOU DID YOUR BEST FOR A WHOLE WEEK.
STEADILY
TONIGHT,
YOU WERE REALLY A CHARMING LADY.
RE...
Excited
REALLY?
I'M SO GLAD!
ESTHER ...

HM...?
...HEY.
WHAT IS THIS?
tap
BECAUSE,
ACCORDING TO THE CONTRACT, WE ARE TEMPORARY HUSBAND AND WIFE!
YOU CAN'T! YOU CAN'T DO THIS IN A FAKE MARRIAGE!
HUH? WHAT IS FAKE ABOUT THIS?
EVEN THOUGH I HAVE JUST TOLD YOU MY FEELINGS?
AH... YES
I AM VERY HAPPY THAT YOU ARE CONTENT WITH SOMEONE LIKE ME

WHAT'S WITH THAT COLD ANSWER!?
UM...
sigh
MASTER LEON,
IT SEEMS THAT
YOUR WORDS FROM BEFORE HAVEN'T REACHED MISS ESTHER.
....WHAT?
WELL...
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU DON'T SEE EVEN A PART OF ME THE WAY I SEE YOU?
AH... I HAVE REALIZED THAT THE COUNT IS IN FACT A REALLY KIND PERSON BUT...
CLOSING IN
I SEE.
SMILE

BUT UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU.
YOU ARE STILL MY WIFE.
I WILL NOT HOLD IT IN FOR A LIFETIME SO PREPARE YOURSELF.
Ah, mother...

As I thought, the count is completely dark. He is definitely not a prince!
DID I DO SOMETHING TO HURT YOUR FEELINGS?
I DON'T MIND.
IT SEEMS THAT I HAVEN'T SHOWN YOU ENOUGH AFFECTION FOR YOU TO NOTICE IT.
?
?

And so, the days of studying and lessons have returned.
MISS ESTHER, HOW WAS YOUR FIRST TIME AT THE OPERA?
AH... WELL...
BECAUSE OF A SMALL ACCIDENT WE LEFT THE THEATRE HALFWAY THROUGH...
OH DEAR, I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT
OH, BUT STAYING AT THE CASTLE IN LONDON FELT LIKE A TRIP SO I WAS HAPPY!
SINCE YOU CAME HERE, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN SO CHEERFUL SO HE ARRANGED FOR THE TRIP TO THE THEATRE,
TO GIVE YOU SOME RELAXATION TIME.
OH, THEN I'M GLAD MASTER LEON ACHIEVED HIS GOAL
HIS GOAL?
BUT...
WASN'T THAT PUNISHMENT...?
knock knock

MORNING. DOING YOUR BEST?

.....
DO YOU HAVE A FEVER?
WHAT'S WRONG? YOUR FACE IS RED.

This lifestyle which I can't call peaceful.
Mother in heaven, please protect me in this lifestyle I have with this difficult count.
TO BE CONTINUED